

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A circuit for controlling the power supplied to a load. The circuit includes a controlled self-conducting semiconductor switch (4) connected in-series with the load (2). Further, a first energy storage circuit (9a) is provided in-series with the load and includes a first energy storage element (6a) and a first rectifier (8a) connected in-series thereto. A controlled auxiliary switch (12) is also included in the circuit in-parallel fashion to the first energy storage element. A control sub-circuit (13) is provided near the energy storage element which is associated with the self-conducting semiconductor switch and the auxiliary switch. The control sub-circuit closes or opens the auxiliary switch when the voltage on the first energy storage element exceeds a predetermined first value or falls short of a predetermined second value.